



THE VISION THAT DROVE SUPERMAN MAD!

NOW
40¢

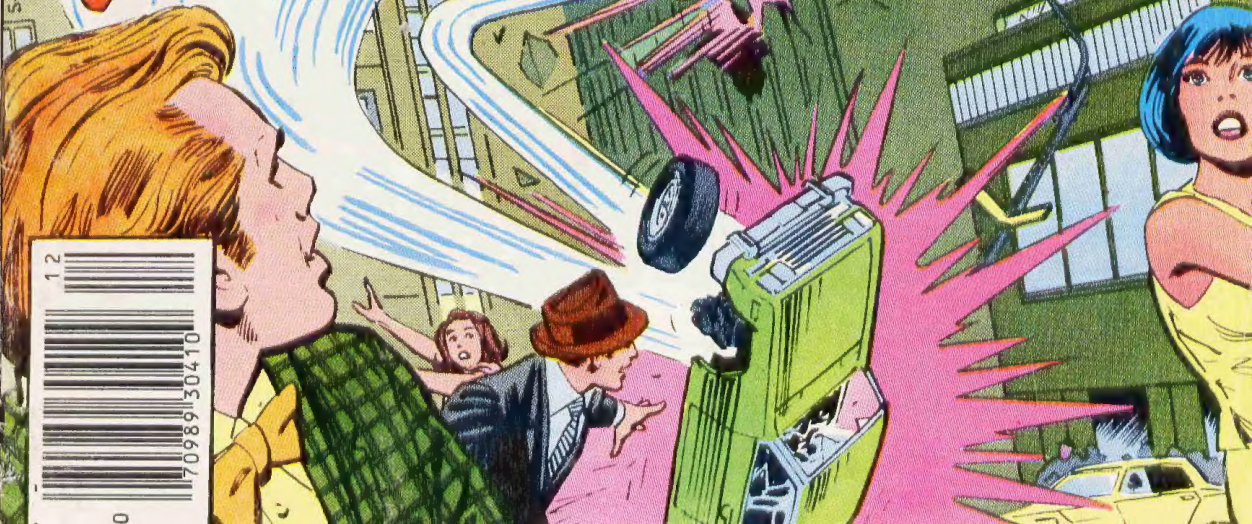
NO. 490
DEC.

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SUPERMAN'S ACTION COMICS

MY EYES-- **BURNING...**
CAN'T CONTROL MY
ACTIONS... **I'LL WRECK
METROPOLIS!**

ANDRU-GIORNANO



ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...

SUPERMAN
Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER



THE DEAFENING SCREAM ERUPTS FROM THE VERY SOUL OF THE TORMENTED MAN OF STEEL--AS HE BECOMES THE VICTIM OF AN AGONY NO KRYPTONIAN HAS EVER ENDURED BEFORE! AN AGONY SO EXCRUCIATING THAT THERE MAY BE...

NO TOMORROW FOR SUPERMAN!

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...AND WHEN THE HISTORIC
MOMENT ARRIVED LAST
NIGHT AT PRECISELY
10:17 EASTERN STANDARD
TIME, AN ENTIRE WORLD
WAS WATCHING...

...WATCHING THE
FINAL DEATH-THROES
OF ANOTHER WORLD...
A WORLD THAT PERISHED
LONG AGO AND FAR
AWAY...

...A WORLD WHICH BEQUEATHED
TO EARTH THE INFANT WHO WOULD
GROW UP TO BECOME THE MIGHTY
MAN OF STEEL--EARTH'S MOST
BELOVED HERO--

--SUPERMAN!

WHILE IT HAS
BEEN MANY
YEARS SINCE
KRYPTON
EXPLODED--

--IT HAS TAKEN
ALMOST THREE DECADES
FOR THE BLAZING LIGHT
TO TRAVEL ACROSS THE
GALAXY AND BECOME
VISIBLE IN OUR NIGHT
SKY! *

AND VISIBLE IT
WAS--AS THIS
TELESCOPICALLY
TAPE
RECORDED AT 10:17
SO VIVIDLY
DEMONSTRATES!

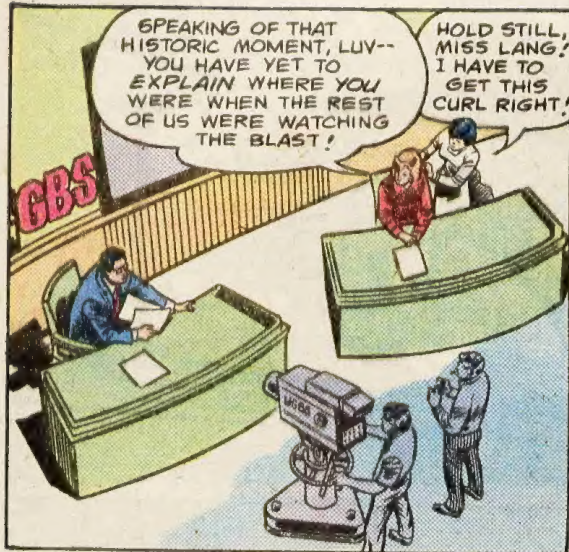
* BABY KAL-EL'S ROCKET ARRIVED ON EARTH ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER KRYPTON'S
DESTRUCTION, BECAUSE THE SHIP WAS DESIGNED TO CREATE A SPACE-WARP!--J.S.

THANKS TO THE RELAY-
SATELLITES HOOKED INTO
OUR GBS-TV NETWORK--
OUR WORLD-WIDE TELE-
CAST OF THE BLAST WAS
WATCHED BY AN ESTIMATED
750 MILLION PEOPLE! *

AND WHAT ABOUT SUPERMAN? WAS THE
SON OF KRYPTON ONE OF THOSE MANY
MILLIONS WATCHING... OR WAS THE PROSPECT
OF SEEING HIS HOME PLANET DIE AGAIN TOO
GREAT A TRAUMA FOR EVEN A MAN OF STEEL
TO ENDURE?

WE'LL HAVE MORE
ON THE BIG BLOW-UP--
RIGHT AFTER THIS
COMMERCIAL MESSAGE!

* AS SHOWN IN PREVIOUS ISSUE--
ACTION #489.--J.S.



SPEAKING OF THAT HISTORIC MOMENT, LUV-- YOU HAVE YET TO EXPLAIN WHERE YOU WERE WHEN THE REST OF US WERE WATCHING THE BLAST!

HOLD STILL, MISS LANG! I HAVE TO GET THIS CURL RIGHT!



THERE, MR. KENT! A DAB OF PANCAKE APPLICATOR TO KEEP YOU DRY!

WELL, CLARK? AREN'T YOU GOING TO DAZZLE US WITH ONE OF THOSE MADDENING EXPLANATIONS THAT USED TO "CONVINCE" ME YOU WERE SUPERMAN?



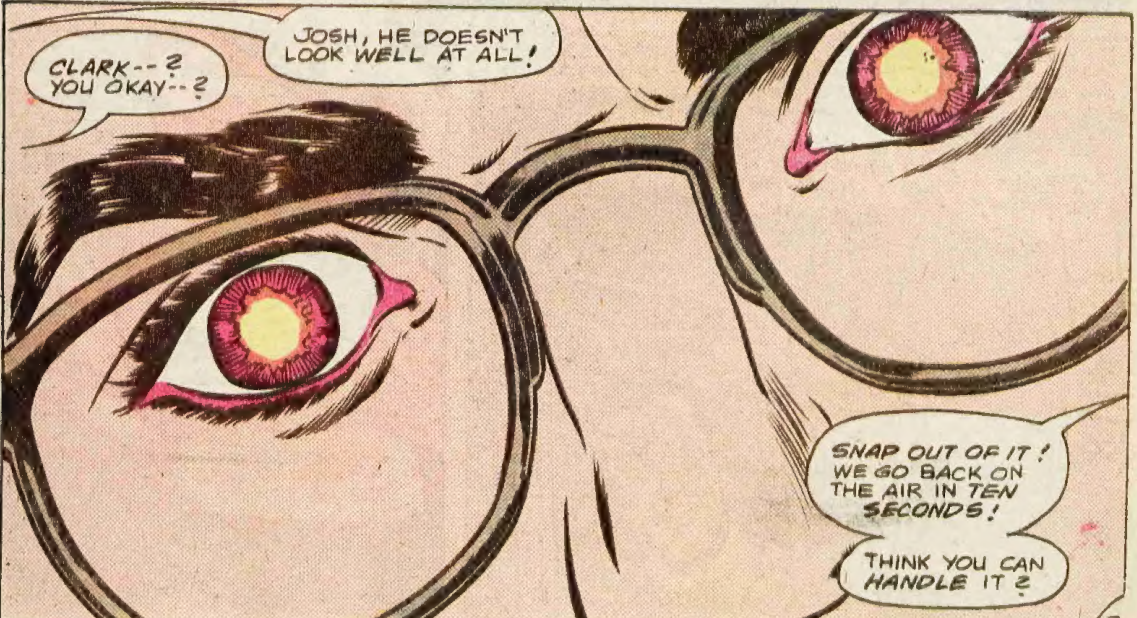
HOW DO YOU TAKE IT, CLARK?

YOU'VE BEEN SUSPECTED OF BEING SUPERMAN SO OFTEN, EVERYONE JOKES ABOUT IT! MUST MAKE YOU FEEL --



OHHHHHHH...

MR. KENT-- DON'T DO THAT! YOU'LL SMUDGE YOUR MAKE-UP!



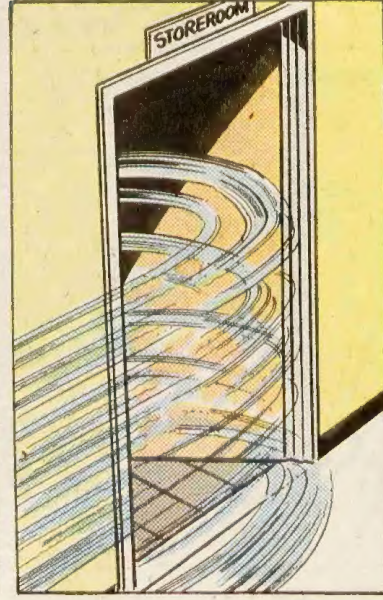
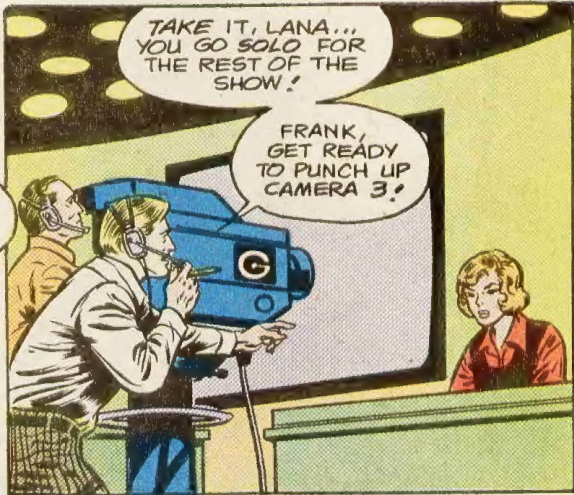
CLARK-- ? YOU OKAY-- ?

JOSH, HE DOESN'T LOOK WELL AT ALL!

SNAP OUT OF IT! WE GO BACK ON THE AIR IN TEN SECONDS!

THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT ?

THERE IS NO RESPONSE FROM THE ANCHOR-MAN AS HE RISES AND RACES ACROSS THE ROOM...



IN THE MOMENTARY REFUGE OF THE EMPTY STORE-ROOM, THE MIGHTIEST MAN ON EARTH IS SHAKEN BY HIS REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR...



SCANT SECONDS LATER...

YOU SAW KENT RUN IN HERE? BUT WHY A STOREROOM?

LISTEN...IN AN EMERGENCY, ANY ROOM WILL DO!

STOREROOM

EMPTY! EITHER HE TOOK A FLYING LEAP OUT OF A 20TH-FLOOR WINDOW--

--OR I WAS MISTAKEN? I WONDER WHAT WAS THE MATTER WITH HIM?

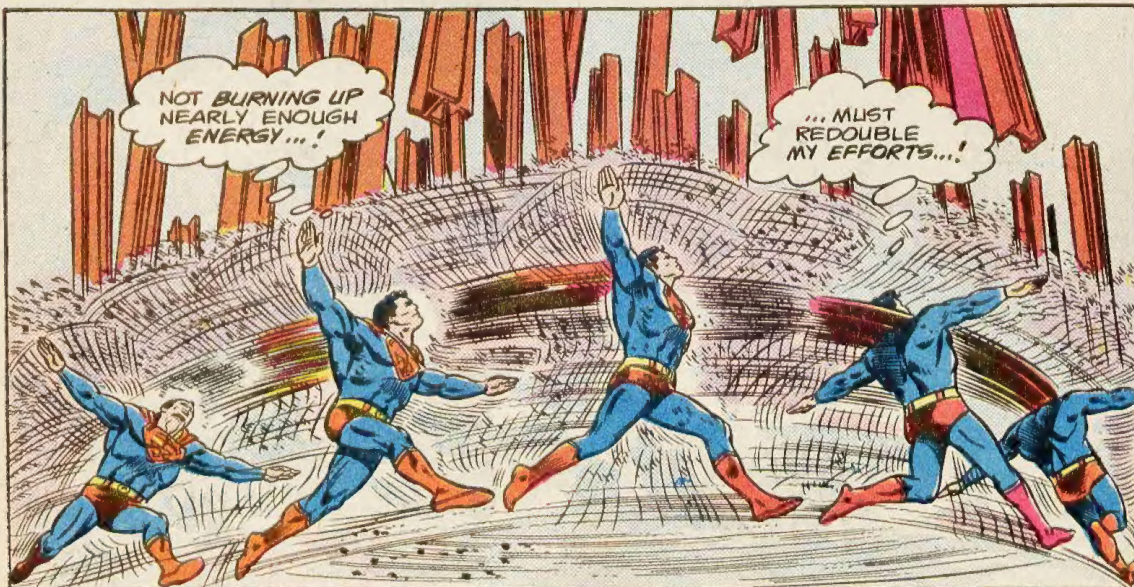
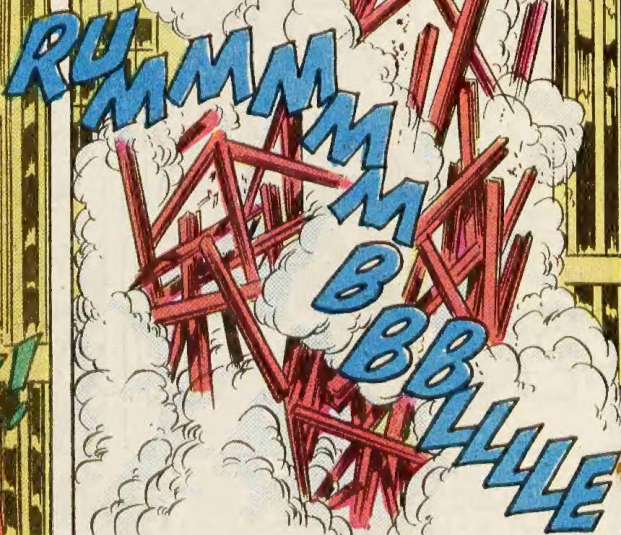
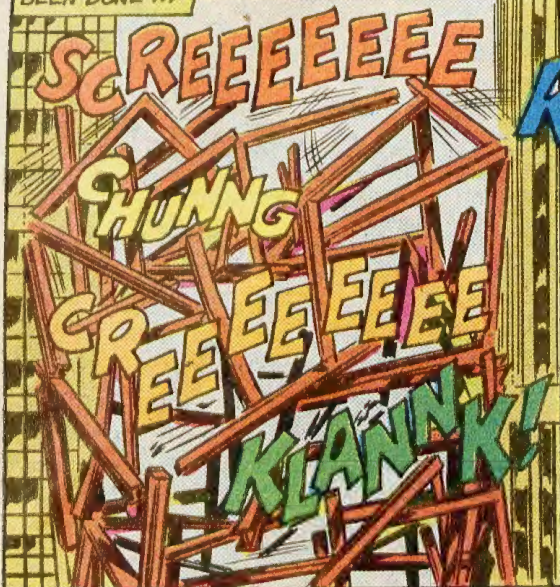
FEEL LIKE I'M... BURNING UP INSIDE...!

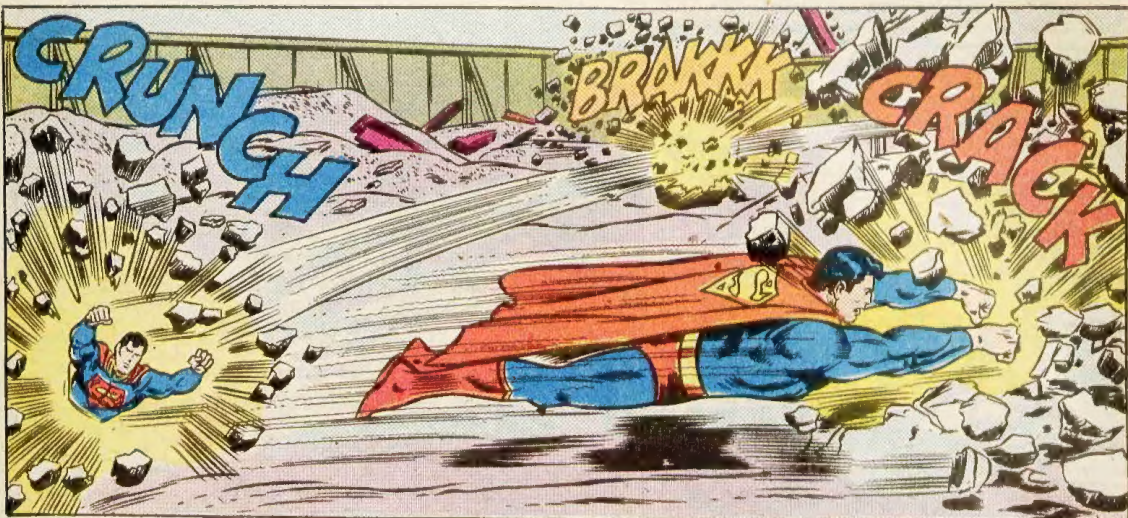
EVERY FIBER OF MY BODY... SEETHING WITH RUNAWAY ENERGY..!

MUST UNLEASH IT...NOW!

KA-BOOOOM!

A HUNDRED FEET ABOVE, TORTURED STEEL
WRENCHES LOUDLY AGAINST ITSELF IN FUTILE
PROTEST--BUT THE DAMAGE HAS ALREADY
BEEN DONE ...





AND, ASTOUNDINGLY, AFTER 13 SECONDS OF INCREDIBLE SUPER-DESTRUCTION...

'WAY TO GO, SUPES,' WISH MY KIDS HAD BEEN HERE TO SEE IT!

ANYBODY WHO CAN DO THAT SCARES THE SPIT OUT OF ME!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER SEE THIS DAY, SUPERMAN--



--WHEN I'D BE THANKING YOU FOR PULVERIZING ONE OF OUR BUILDINGS!

SORRY I CAN'T ACCEPT THE HANDSHAKE YET, WILSON--MY HANDS STILL HAVE TO COOL OFF A FEW THOUSAND DEGREES--

YOU SAVED THE COMPANY MILLIONS IN DEMOLITION WORK!



--WITH THE HELP OF SOME SUPER-COLD BREATH!

BUT HOW COME, SUPERMAN? YOU WEREN'T SCHEDULED TO DO THIS DEMOLISHING ACT TILL TOMORROW MORNING!

WHY NOW--?

OH, LET'S JUST SAY I HAD A SUDDEN URGE TO LET OFF SOME STEAM!

AT ANY RATE, YOU'RE SETTING A FINE EXAMPLE FOR OTHER BUSINESSMEN --PUTTING SAFETY BEFORE PROFIT!

ONCE WE DISCOVERED INFERIOR STEEL WAS BEING USED WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE --THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE--



--THE SKELETON HAD TO COME DOWN!

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, WILSON-- AND YOU CAN COUNT ON SOME SUPER-HELP FROM ME WHEN YOU START REBUILDING!



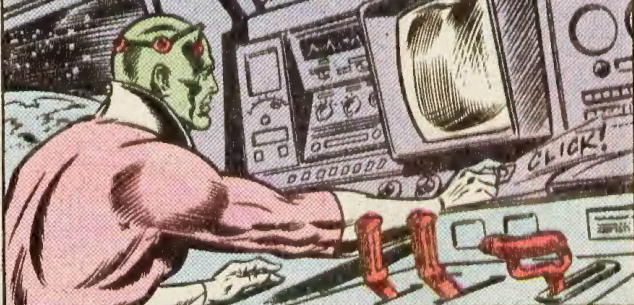
AT THAT MOMENT--THOUSANDS OF MILES ABOVE...

YOU ARE BRIMMING WITH SURPRISES, KRYPTONIAN! THE EXTERNAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTED YOU HAD TOTALLY LOST CONTROL OF YOUR ACTIONS...



...YET YOU SOMEHOW SUMMONED UP THE WILL TO PERFORM A GOOD DEED WHILE REGAINING YOUR SENSES!

HOW REVOLTING!



ALTHOUGH HE IS HUMAN IN APPEARANCE, THIS GREEN-HUED OBSERVER IS ACTUALLY A SENTIENT, SUPER-ADVANCED COMPUTER...

...A NON-HUMAN SCOURGE FEARED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE GALAXY!

SUPERMAN SUCCEEDED IN SURVIVING THIS FIRST ATTACK-- BUT THE WORST OF HIS ORDEAL IS YET TO COME!

THAT IS NO IDLE BOAST-- BUT A SCIENTIFICALLY-CALCULATED FACT!

THE NAME BRAINIAC HAS LONG STRUCK TERROR IN EVERY KRYPTONIAN'S HEART--

--BUT SUPERMAN IS DISCOVERING A TERROR INFINITELY WORSE THAN ANYTHING EVEN MY TWELFTH-LEVEL COMPUTER MIND COULD CONCEIVE!

A TERROR FROM WHICH THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

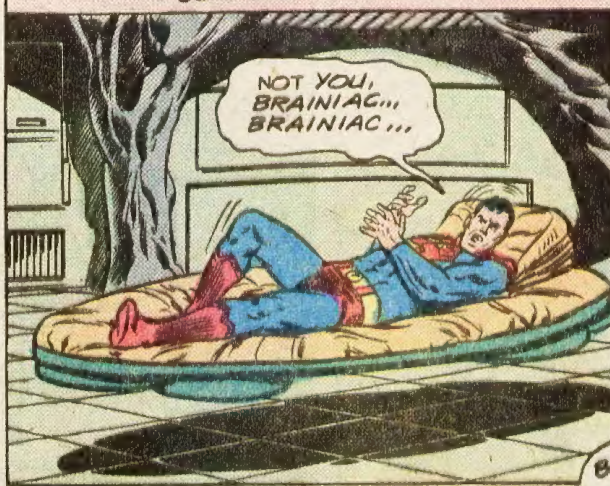


THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE! THE MAN OF STEEL'S SECRET HIDEAWAY NEAR THE NORTH POLE, BLANKETED BY CONTINUAL ICE AND SNOW--AND THE PERSISTENT DARKNESS OF LONG ARCTIC NIGHTS...

NOOOOOO... NOT YOU...!

BUT NOT EVEN THE MASSIVE WALLS OF THE FORTRESS CAN SHELTER SUPERMAN FROM SOME FORCES...

NOT YOU, BRAINIAC... BRAINIAC...

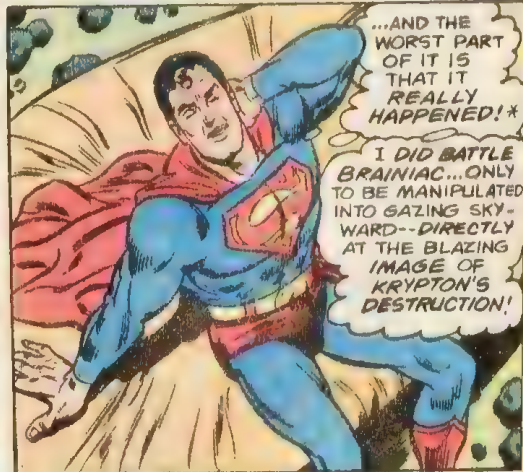
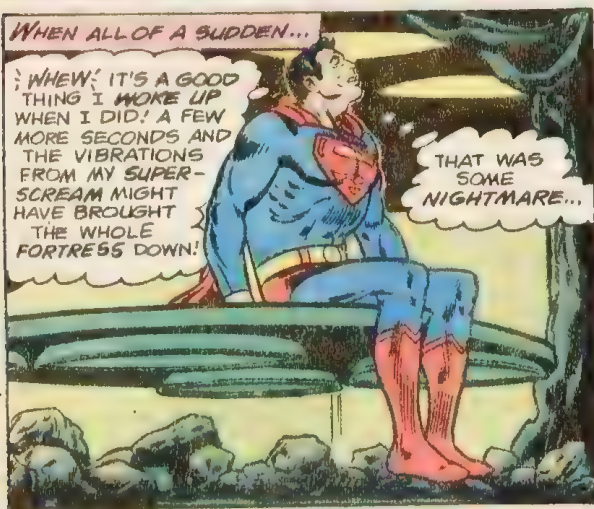




WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...

WHEW! IT'S A GOOD THING I WOKE UP WHEN I DID! A FEW MORE SECONDS AND THE VIBRATIONS FROM MY SUPER-SCREAM MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT THE WHOLE FORTRESS DOWN!

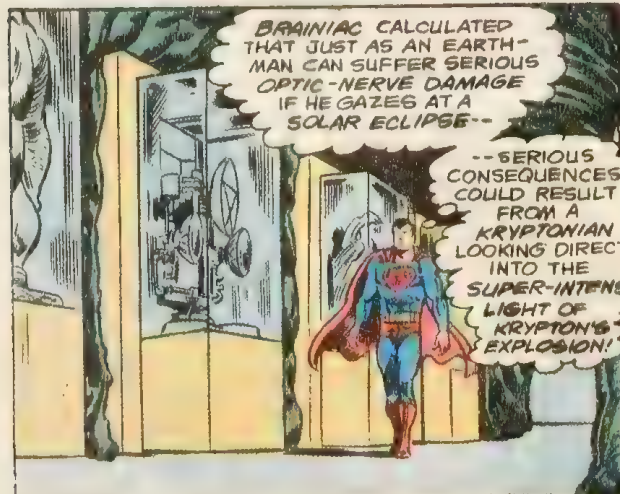
THAT WAS SOME NIGHTMARE...



...AND THE WORST PART OF IT IS THAT IT REALLY HAPPENED! *

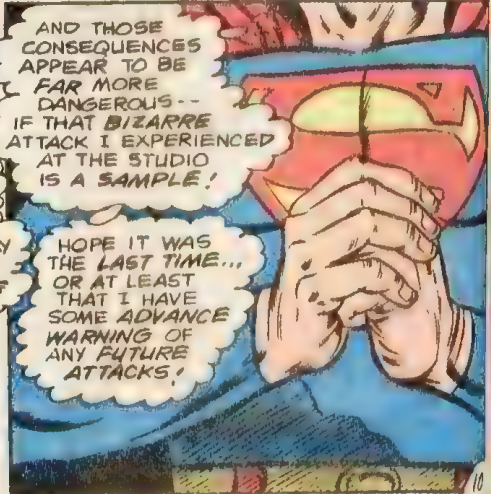
I DID BATTLE BRAINIAC... ONLY TO BE MANIPULATED INTO GAZING SKYWARD-- DIRECTLY AT THE BLAZING IMAGE OF KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION!

* AS WE SAW LAST ISSUE! -- JULIE



BRAINIAC CALCULATED THAT JUST AS AN EARTH-MAN CAN SUFFER SERIOUS OPTIC-NERVE DAMAGE IF HE GAZES AT A SOLAR ECLIPSE--

--SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES COULD RESULT FROM A KRYPTONIAN LOOKING DIRECTLY INTO THE SUPER-INTENSE LIGHT OF KRYPTON'S EXPLOSION!



AND THOSE CONSEQUENCES APPEAR TO BE FAR MORE DANGEROUS-- IF THAT BIZARRE ATTACK I EXPERIENCED AT THE STUDIO IS A SAMPLE!

HOPE IT WAS THE LAST TIME... OR AT LEAST THAT I HAVE SOME ADVANCE WARNING OF ANY FUTURE ATTACKS.

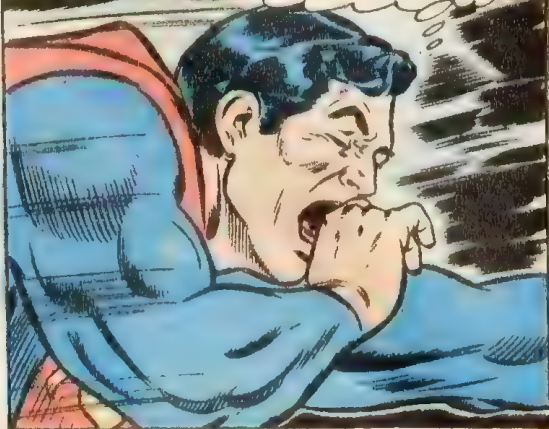
YAWN! I'VE NOTICED ONE THING ABOUT A SUPER-ENERGY ATTACK... IT LEAVES AN EXTRAORDINARY DRAIN ON EVEN MY SUPER-STAMINA!

I CAN'T REMEMBER...



...THE LAST TIME I WAS YAWNING LIKE THIS!

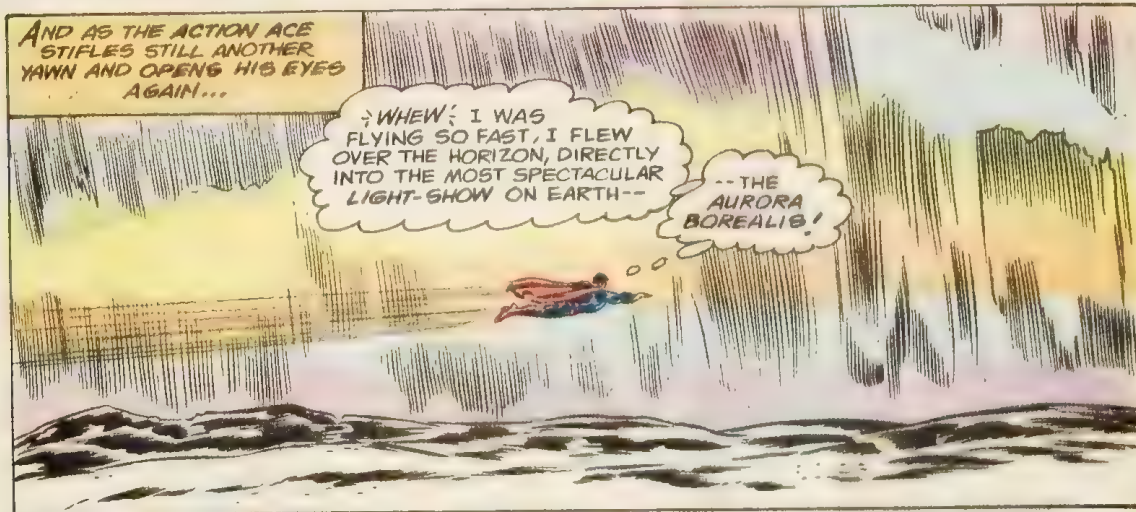
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT A GOOD IDEA WHEN YOU'RE FLYING AT SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES PER HOUR!



AND AS THE ACTION ACE STIFLES STILL ANOTHER YAWN AND OPENS HIS EYES AGAIN...

WHEW! I WAS FLYING SO FAST, I FLEW OVER THE HORIZON, DIRECTLY INTO THE MOST SPECTACULAR LIGHT-SHOW ON EARTH--

--THE AURORA BOREALIS!



GREAT KRYPTON! NOT AGAIN!

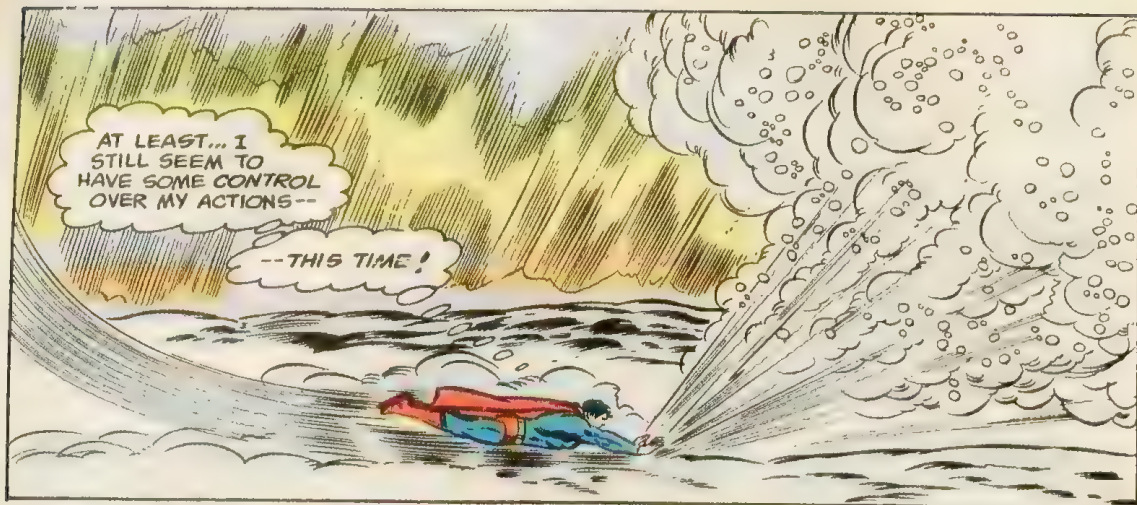
IT'S THAT SAME DREAD FEELING I HAD IN THE TV STUDIO!



LOOKS LIKE THIS IS A SEQUEL TO MY FIRST KRYPTON-ATTACK!

I HAVE THE SAME UNCONTROLLABLE COMPULSION TO BURN UP TITANIC AMOUNTS OF SUPER-ENERGY!



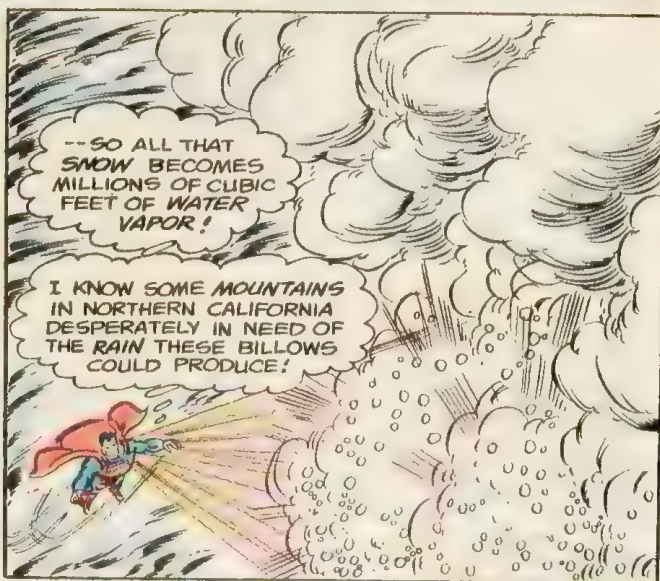


AT LEAST... I
STILL SEEM TO
HAVE SOME CONTROL
OVER MY ACTIONS--

--THIS TIME!

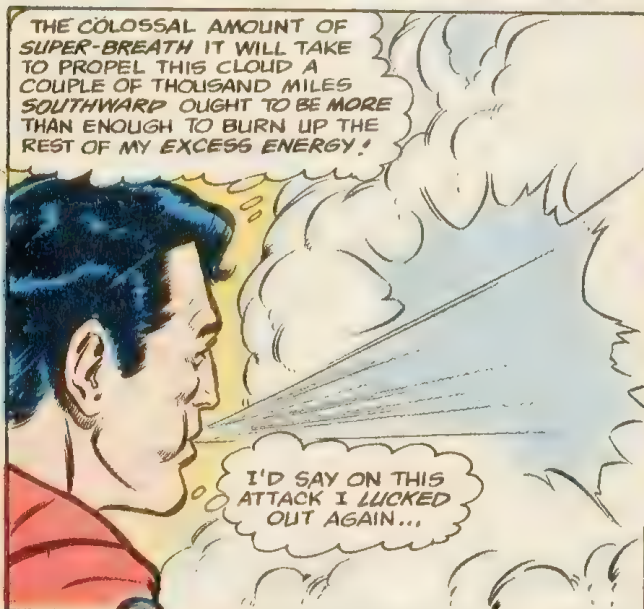


NOW THAT I'VE PLOWED
HUNDREDS OF SQUARE
MILES OF SNOW INTO
THE AIR... IT'S TIME
TO POUR ON THE
HEAT VISION--



--SO ALL THAT
SNOW BECOMES
MILLIONS OF CUBIC
FEET OF WATER
VAPOR!

I KNOW SOME MOUNTAINS
IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DESPERATELY IN NEED OF
THE RAIN THESE BILLOWS
COULD PRODUCE!



THE COLOSSAL AMOUNT OF
SUPER-BREATH IT WILL TAKE
TO PROPEL THIS CLOUD A
COUPLE OF THOUSAND MILES
SOUTHWARD OUGHT TO BE MORE
THAN ENOUGH TO BURN UP THE
REST OF MY EXCESS ENERGY!

I'D SAY ON THIS
ATTACK I LUCKED
OUT AGAIN...



...BUT WILL
MY LUCK
HOLD
NEXT TIME?

THE NEXT AFTERNOON--AS A BLARING ALARM
SHRIEKS OUT FROM THE METRO SAVINGS BANK ...

**BRRR
RRRR
NGGG**

HUSTLE, NICKY!
THE COPS'LL BE
HERE ANY SECOND!

WRONG,
JACKO--THE
COPS ARE
ALREADY
HERE--SO
LET'S STRIP!

GOTTA HAND
IT TO YOU--THIS
IS THE NIFTIEST
STUNT YOU'VE
EVER COME
UP WITH!

YEAH, YEAH! STASH
YOUR TRENCHCOAT
IN THE GARBAGE
CAN AND KEEP
MOVING!

**WHEE
EEEE**

THERE IT IS--
OUR GETAWAY
CAR-- A
PERFECT COPY
OF THE REAL
ITEM!

I HEAR
SIRENS--
THE REAL
SQUAD CARS
ARE ON THE
WAY!

WE'LL JOIN 'EM
LONG ENOUGH
TILL WE CAN
SNEAK AWAY--

--ALL THE
WAY TO THE
FRENCH
RIVIERA!

WHAT
BETTER
PLACE TO
SPEND OUR
RETIREMENT?

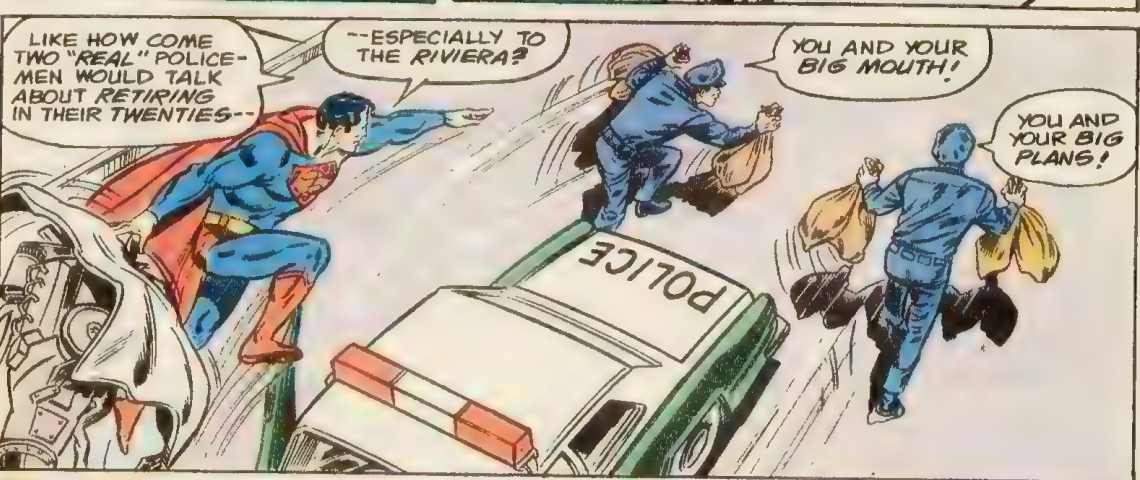
JUST A MOMENT,
OFFICERS!

YULP! SUPERMAN!
WE DIDN'T FIGURE
ON HIM BEIN'
HERE!

COOL IT! WE'RE
THE FUZZ, REMEMBER?
I'LL DO THE TALKING!

SUPERMAN, WHAT A
BREAK YOUR SHOWING
UP HERE! WE WERE
PATROLLING THE AREA
WHEN WE HEARD THE
BANK ALARM AND
RUSHED RIGHT
OVER!

I HEARD THE
ALARM, TOO--
AND SOMETHING
ELSE!

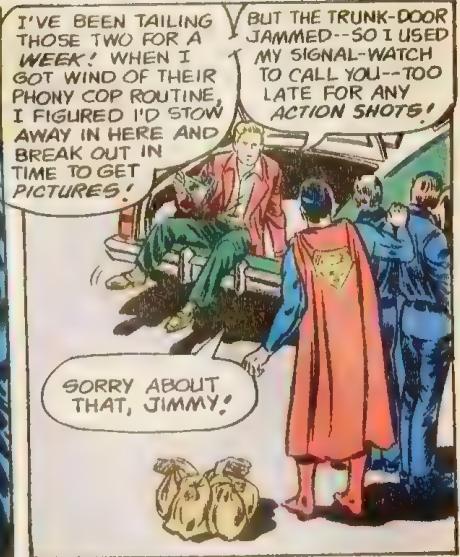




I DON'T NEED MY X-RAY VISION TO SEE THAT MR. ACTION IS ON AN ASSIGNMENT!

ER... WORKING UNDERCOVER, JIMMY OLSEN?

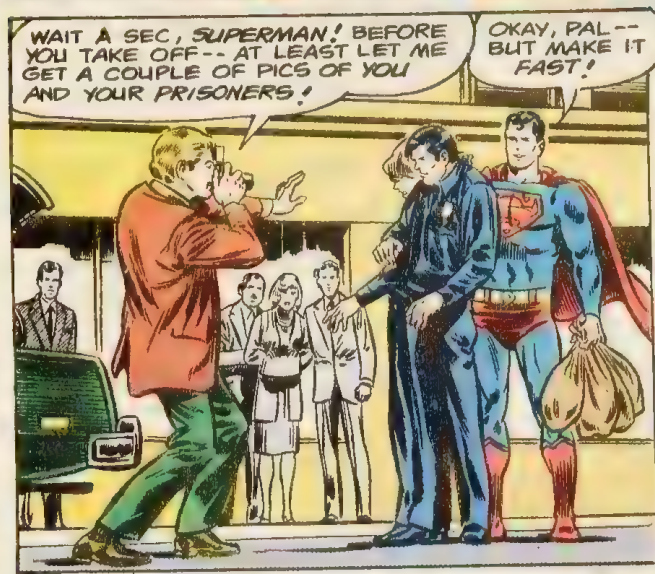
SUPERMAN! AM I EVER GLAD TO SEE YOU!



I'VE BEEN TAILING THOSE TWO FOR A WEEK! WHEN I GOT WIND OF THEIR PHONY COP ROUTINE, I FIGURED I'D STOW AWAY IN HERE AND BREAK OUT IN TIME TO GET PICTURES!

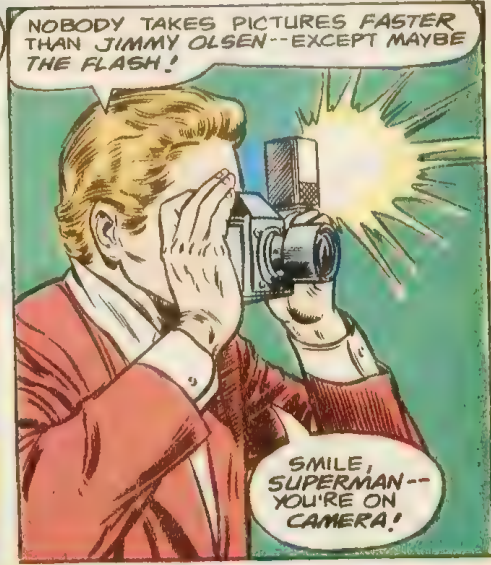
BUT THE TRUNK-DOOR JAMMED--SO I USED MY SIGNAL-WATCH TO CALL YOU--TOO LATE FOR ANY ACTION SHOTS!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, JIMMY!



WAIT A SEC, SUPERMAN! BEFORE YOU TAKE OFF-- AT LEAST LET ME GET A COUPLE OF PICS OF YOU AND YOUR PRISONERS!

OKAY, PAL -- BUT MAKE IT FAST!



NOBODY TAKES PICTURES FASTER THAN JIMMY OLSEN--EXCEPT MAYBE THE FLASH!

SMILE, SUPERMAN-- YOU'RE ON CAMERA!



HOLD IT! LET ME GET ONE MORE!

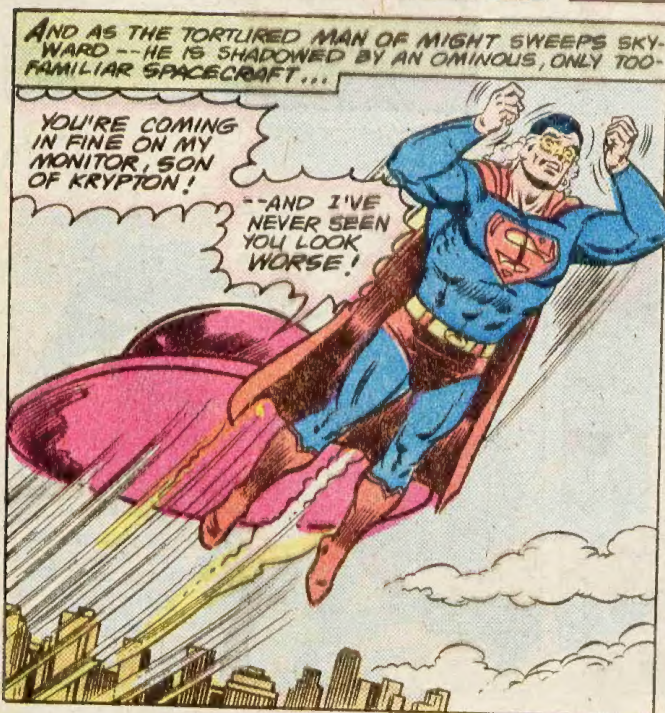
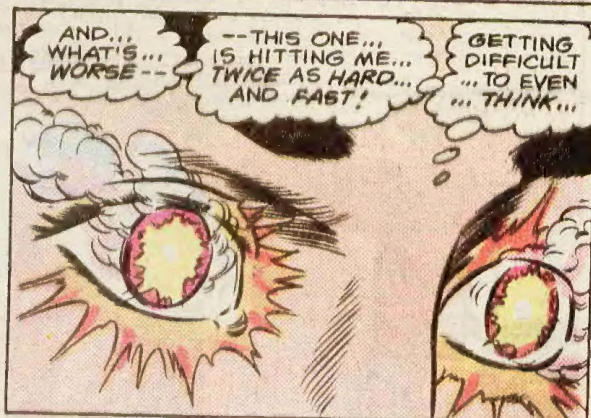
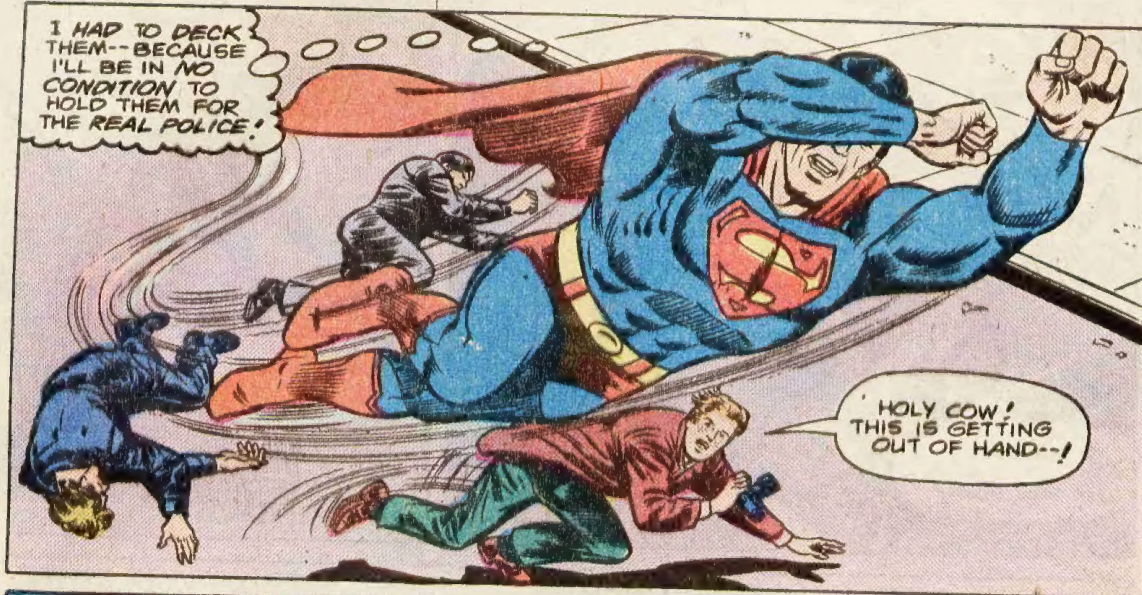
SUPERMAN... WHAT'S WRONG--?



UHHHH!

OOFFF!

SUPERMAN-- WHY ARE YOU KNOCKING THEM OUT--? THEY'RE NOT RESISTING ARREST!



--TO BE
YOUR
GUIDE!

I'M USING AN ENERGIZED
TRACTOR-BEAM TO ALTER
YOUR RUNAWAY COURSE--
EVER SO SLIGHTLY!

AFTER ALL, WE CAN'T
LET THIS STUPENDOUS
SURGE OF DESTRUCTIVE
ENERGY GO TO
WASTE!

THAT'S WHY I'VE
PUT YOU ON A
COLLISION COURSE
WITH A MOST SUITABLE
AND DESERVING
TARGET--

--THE
JUSTICE
LEAGUE
SATELLITE!

DANGER-DANGER-
DANGER!

ON DUTY INSIDE THE ORBITING CITADEL
AT THIS TIME--A GRIM WINGED
WONDER--HAWKMAN!

COMPUTER--
IDENTIFY
ONCOMING
OBJECT!

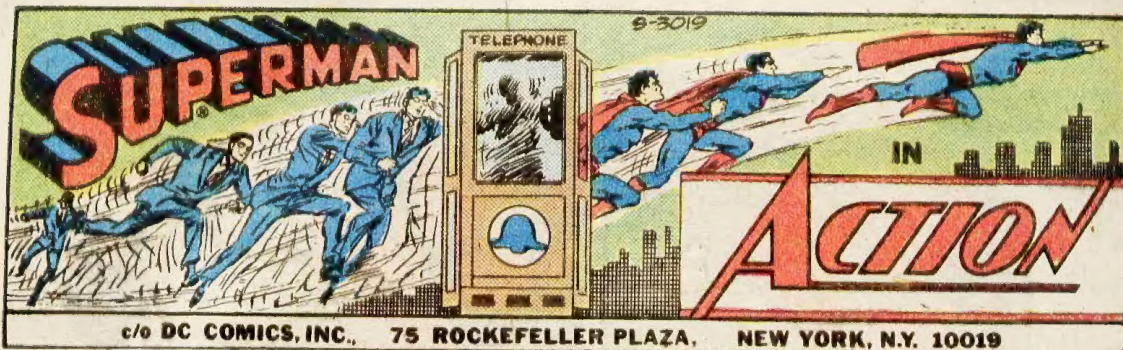
MOLECULAR ANALYSIS
UNDER WAY... VISUAL
IMAGE WILL APPEAR
ON SCREEN IN
1.3 SECONDS!

OBJECT
IDENTIFIED--

--KRYPTONIAN!

GREAT POLARIS! FROM THAT
FIERY LOOK IN HIS EYES, I'D
SAY SUPERMAN IS GOING TO
SMASH INTO THE SATELLITE!

HOW CAN EVEN HAWKMAN STOP THE FURIOUS CHARGE
OF THE MADDENED SUPERMAN? YOU MUST NOT
MISS NEXT ISSUE'S COLOSSAL CONCLUSION:
"A MATTER OF LIGHT AND DEATH!"
*** ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN OCTOBER!!



Dear Ed:

How very tricky of you! It was very smart, sandwiching that reprint in between new story and art ("The Experiment That Backfired on Superman," *ACTION* 485). Having the reprint didn't bother me the least bit since I never read the story before. Tales like this should be reprinted more often, as they have had such an impact on *Superman's* life. I am sure many readers benefitted from this repeat of two major events dealing with *Superman*. I doubt this was your only reason for using the story again. There probably was a missed deadline or something.

I really went head-over-heels when reading the story. It's the kind I like, dealing with the personal life of the Man of Steel. I would rather read about *Superman* romancing Lois Lane than see him take on Lex Luthor. I'd rather see Clark Kent make an idiot out of Steve Lombard than watch him being attacked by a foe who knows he's friendly with *Superman*. Most of the time, these events gradually lead up to something big, but things always revert to the way they were before.

By the way, I loved the Neal Adams Cover.

Anthony J. Pignataro Jr.
80 Broad St.
Catskill, NY 12414

What happened was that we had to catch up with new, stricter deadlines. Result: a few reprints had to be shoved into various titles. And judging by reader response, we picked the right one for ACTION!—ENB.

Dear Staff:

I was disappointed in *ACTION* #485. Not because most of the issue was composed of reprint material (this happens too rarely at DC to get upset about), but because the story didn't answer all the questions about the day the Man of Steel's life was changed. The reprint itself was one of *Superman's* finest past tales and must be considered a classic because of the drastic change it introduced. This brilliant O'Neil/Swan/Anderson effort was certainly worthy of reproduction.

But the story's original printing had inspired many questions that had to be answered by time and many letter pages. I wish #485 had contained feature pages to repeat the answers to the many questions that weren't really made clear by reading the story.

This issue failed to discuss the subject of off-Earth Kryptonite, to explain *Superman's* occasional weak spells, sum up the facts about the Superman dust-demon-double, or even touch on the fact that this caused a weakening (and later regaining) of *Superman's* powers. Since it would be unwise to reprint all the stories in that series, I feel a featurette should have been included. This issue showed us how the things happened, but it failed to answer many good questions. The reprint was great, but for 35¢, I wish something other than four pages of new art had been provided; this is an anniversary year for *Superman*.

You won't see many better covers than this rendering of *Superman* by Neal Adams.

Wallace L. Hopkins
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Maybe—but our next lettercolumnist has a different opinion.—ENB

.....

Dear Julie and Nelson:

Well, another Adams cover. 'Funny thing; this is the third version he's done of the same scene (the second was for Power Records) and it's probably the least effective of the three. Maybe he just ran out of good ways to do it.

As for the few new pages in this issue, they were good; remarkably effective, in fact. Joe Rubinstein looked excellent inking Curt Swan—and Curt did a beautiful and very compelling job on the scenes of *Superman* on fire. The evaporated lake was a perfect touch.

But the important lesson in this story is that Kryptonite is gone forever. It's slowly starting to worm its way back into the *Superman* mythos and this should be a harsh reminder that we are better off without it. It is simply the most convenient device for a writer to abuse. I don't mind seeing it every few years, off Earth, but for the most part, it should be forgotten. Let that be a lesson to you all.

Beppe Sabatini
515 Division St.
E. Lansing, MI 48823

We always felt Kryptonite would return some day—but though it's back on Earth, we promise not to overdo it. Julie is adamant on this point.—ENB

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Dear Editor:

Well, I've really got to hand it to you. *ACTION* #485 was another great issue. No, it didn't feature an Earth-shattering plot, no super-powered baddie lurking in the shadows, and no ultra-scientific aliens. What it did have was a nice, smooth storyline, the best art I've seen in a long while, and a look at something we rarely see: the full extent of *Superman's* powers and weaknesses.

He seemed a wee bit overconfident without his Kryptonite weakness; take eating those chunks of it (turned to K-iron) for example. Sure, I nearly laughed my head off, but for all *Supes* knew, it could have given him heartburn or some major medical ailment.

Harold Aurand
RD 2
Drums, PA 18222

At least he knew it wouldn't give him iron deficiency anemia.—E. Nelson Bridwell



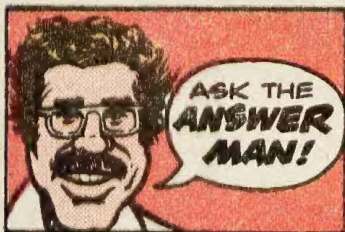
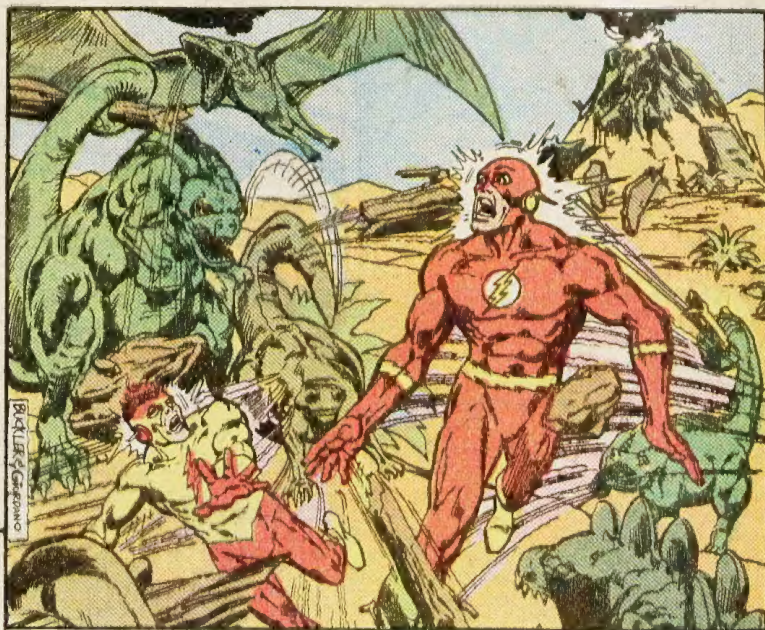


FLASH BATTLES DINOSAURS!

JOINS WITH KID FLASH FOR FULL-LENGTH ADVENTURE

(Central City)—Suppose one of your friends had an uncanny power to predict the future. Suppose that, as a result of that power, she suddenly lapsed into a deep coma. And suppose you were Wally West, secretly *Kid Flash*. You'd probably do everything in your power to help her, right?

That's just what happens in *FLASH* #269 as the Fastest Teen Alive joins forces with his mentor, *The Flash*, to invade the "Domain of the Dark-Eyed Dragons" in a story by Cary Bates, Irv Novick and Frank McLaughlin. There's super-speed action a million years in the past as the twin speedsters battle intelligent dinosaurs and the masterminds behind the plot to change the world. Don't dare miss this issue when it goes on sale the week of October 2nd.



Q: Any chance of seeing *Wonder Girl* again?—Demetrios Williams. A: She's scheduled for a battle with *Wonder Woman* in an upcoming *ADVENTURE COMICS*.

Q: Please tell me when *Bat-Mite* will be appearing?—Jimmie Johnson. A: *Bat-Mite* (and a most bizarre array of guest characters) will make a long-awaited debut in *DETECTIVE COMICS* #482. Ye Answer Man, Bob Rozakis, scripted it and Mike Golden and Bob Smith handled the art.

Q: Is there a 1978 Comic Book Price Guide?—Howard Bloch. A: Yes, and it is available at most book stores.

Q: Will *Aquaman* and *Batman* be teaming

up in *BRAVE & BOLD*?—Lawrence T. Bridget. A: They did in *B&B* #142.

Q: Will Mr. Mxyzptik be appearing soon?—Bill Metz. A: Not that we know of, but that pest could pop up anywhere.

Q: Was Mr. Freeze originally known as Mr. Zero?—Rick Jones. A: Yes, and the icy villain faces *Batman* again in an upcoming issue.

Q: Does Lex Luthor still have a wife on the planet Lexor?—David A. Lofvers. A: Yes, he does.

Q: Where did *Starro the Conqueror* first appear?—Raymond Cannata. A: In *BRAVE & BOLD* #28 (Feb.-March, 1960), battling the JLA.

Q: How come *Saturn Girl* married *Lightning Lad*?—David Hays. A: She loved him.

Q: Are you the same Bob Rozakis who lived in Elmont, New York and had all those letters printed?—Steven Leslie. A: Yes, and I'm sure glad I'm not doing that any more—I've got enough work answering everybody else's letters!

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2nd *BATMAN* #307—A mysterious stranger gives away gold coins but the recipients never get to spend them in "Dark Messenger of Mercy" by Len Wein, John Calnan and Dick Giordano.

DC COMICS PRESENTS #5—*Superman* and *Aquaman* joins forces in a saga by Len Wein and Murphy Anderson.

JONAH HEX #20—Our weirdest western hero catches a ride on the "Phantom Stage to Willow Bend" in a Michael Fleisher/Vicente Alcaraz collaboration.

MEN OF WAR #12—Jack C. Harris, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal ask the startling question "Where is Gravedigger?" Plus: *Enemy Ace* flies again compliments of Robert Kanigher and Howard Chaykin.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:
ACTION COMICS #490 / *DETECTIVE COMICS* (starring *THE BATMAN FAMILY* #481) / *GREEN LANTERN* #111 / *SUPER FRIENDS* #15 / *UNKNOWN SOLDIER* #222 / *WARLORD* #16 / *WONDER WOMAN* #250.

